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PTO/SB/21 (08-03)
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TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	09/788,636	
	Filing Date	2/21/2001	
	First Named Inventor	Eric Andrew Knopf	
	Art Unit	2673	
	Examiner Name	David Lee Lewis	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	72	Attorney Docket Number	ARC920000017US1

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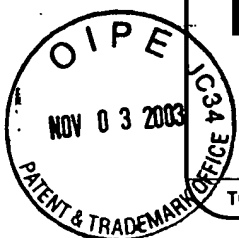
Technology Center 2600

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<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)
<input type="checkbox"/> After Final	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information
<input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation	<input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter
<input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):
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<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	
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<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53		
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT		
Firm or Individual name	Randy W. Lacasse Reg. No. 34,368	
Signature		
Date	11/3/03	

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FEE TRANSMITTAL for FY 2003

Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT \$330

Complete if Known

Application Number 09/788,636
Filing Date 2/21/2001
First Named Inventor Eric Andrew Knopf
Examiner Name David Lee Lewis
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METHOD OF PAYMENT				FEE CALCULATION (continued)																																																																																																																																																																																							
<p>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayments to:</p> <p>Deposit Account Number <u>09-0441</u></p> <p>Deposit Account Name <u>IBM CORPORATION</u></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charge Any Additional Fees Required Under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27</p> <p>2. <input type="checkbox"/> Payment Enclosed:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card <input type="checkbox"/> Money Order <input type="checkbox"/> Other</p>				<p>3. ADDITIONAL FEES</p> <table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Large Entity Fee Code</th><th>Large Entity Fee (\$)</th><th>Small Entity Fee Code</th><th>Small Entity Fee (\$)</th><th>Fee Description</th><th>Fee Paid</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1051</td><td>130</td><td>2051</td><td>65</td><td>Surcharge - late filing fee or oath</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>1052</td><td>50</td><td>2052</td><td>25</td><td>Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>1053</td><td>130</td><td>1053</td><td>130</td><td>Non-English specification</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>1812</td><td>2,520</td><td>1812</td><td>2,520</td><td>For filing a request for ex parte reexamination</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>1804</td><td>920*</td><td>1804</td><td>920*</td><td>Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>1805</td><td>1,840*</td><td>1805</td><td>1,840*</td><td>Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>1251</td><td>110</td><td>2251</td><td>55</td><td>Extension for reply within first month</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>1252</td><td>410</td><td>2252</td><td>205</td><td>Extension for reply within second month</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>1253</td><td>930</td><td>2253</td><td>465</td><td>Extension for reply within third month</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>1254</td><td>1,450</td><td>2254</td><td>725</td><td>Extension for reply within fourth month</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>1255</td><td>1,970</td><td>2255</td><td>985</td><td>Extension for reply within fifth month</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>1401</td><td>320</td><td>1401</td><td>160</td><td>Notice of Appeal</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>1402</td><td>320</td><td>2402</td><td>160</td><td>Filing a brief in support of an appeal</td><td>330</td></tr><tr><td>1451</td><td>1,510</td><td>1452</td><td>1,510</td><td>Petition to institute a public use proceeding</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>1452</td><td>110</td><td>2452</td><td>55</td><td>Petition to revive - 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Name (Print/Type)	Randy W. Lacasse	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	34,368	Telephone	703-838-7683
Signature				Date	11/3/03



Serial No. 09/788,636
Group Art Unit 2673
Docket No: ARC920000017US1

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPEAL BRIEF- 37 C.F.R. 1.192

U.S. Patent Application 09/788,636 entitled,
"COLLABORATIVE TABLET COMPUTER"

Real Party in Interest: International Business Machines Corporation

11/05/2003 BABRAHA1 00000054 090441 09788636

01 FC:1402 330.00 DA

Related Appeals and Interferences:

None

Status of Claims:

Claim 43 is allowed.

Claims 5-7 and 25 are rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9-15, and 17-33 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Latocha et al. (U.S. 5,790,371) in view of Ohgami et al. (U.S. 5,574,625).

Status of Amendments:

Amendment After Final, filed 9/3/2003, not entered

Summary of the Invention:

One or more sections on a housing of a portable computing device are selectively removed or folded away, thereby exposing a free edge of a computing display screen as well as electrical connectors and structural connectors. Two or more such devices are docked utilizing the exposed connectors such that the exposed screen edges abut. Upon docking, the devices recognize the new configuration and re-map the desktop area of the display into a single display for the combined device.

One embodiment of the present invention allows either, or both, the length edge or width edge of the housing to be simply pivoted underneath the device to expose the edge of the device screen. Electrical and structural connectors are exposed as well. The edges of the device are sharply angled, allowing the edge of the device to pivot under itself without adding any substantial thickness to the device. The two folding side sections are split at a 45-degree angle, allowing for independent rotation of the sections, while still providing the maximum potential protection to the screen edge. When one side is folded down, the other edge extends beyond the screen edge, and therefore must be accommodated for in the mating device with a corresponding cut-out area. These male and female shapes provide the added advantage of a visual cue as to

how the two devices connect.

Pending Claims (all citations are made from the original specification, including the figures):

1. A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections (**Figures 1B, 2C, etc., element 120**) for docking with similar portable computer display devices (**Figure 3**), said display device comprising:

a computer display (**Figure 1A, element 108**) with associated supporting cabinet structure (**Figure 1A, elements 100, 102, 112, 116**);

said associated supporting cabinet structure having one or more movable exterior sides (**100**), where one or more corresponding edges of said display (**120**) are selectively exposed (**Figure 1B**), said edges exposed by removing (**Figure 1B**) or temporarily displacing (**Figure 2B**) one or more of said movable exterior sides which protect said one or more exposed display edges, said supporting cabinet additionally comprising one or more structural connectors (**Figure 2C, elements 106a, 118**) for structurally mating to said similar device;

at least one electrical connector (**Figure 2C, element 202**) disposed within said associated supporting cabinet structure and proximate to said one or more exterior sides, said at least one electrical connector capable of connecting in a mating relationship with a corresponding electrical connector in said similar portable display device (**specification, page 8, lines 5-11**),

said one or more exposed display edges abutting in a substantially coplanar configuration (**Figures 5A and 5B**) to a corresponding exposed display edge of said second similar portable device when said electrical connectors are connected and said computer display logically remapped to be part of a single display comprising the displays of both devices (**Figures 5A and 5B, and specification, page 8, line 21 – page 9, line 5**).

2. (cancelled)

3. A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 1, wherein said portable computer display device shares processing power when connected to said similar portable computer

display device (specification, page 8, lines 5-11).

4. (cancelled)

5. A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 4, wherein said display is substantially rectangular in shape and a first one of said two exterior sides extends along a length of said display while a second one of said two exterior sides extends along a width of said display (**Figure 1B**).

6. A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 5, wherein said portable display device is connected to said similar portable display device along said first one of said two exterior sides providing a portrait orientation display (**Figure 4B**).

7. A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 5, wherein said portable display device is connected to said similar portable display device along said second one of said two exterior sides providing a landscape orientation display (**Figure 4A**).

8. (cancelled)

9. A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 1, wherein said displacement is performed by folding said one or more movable exterior sides which protect said one or more exposed display edges towards a back surface (200) of said supporting cabinet (**Figure 2B and specification, page 8, lines 1-4**).

10. A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 9, wherein said one or more

movable exterior sides are connected to said supporting cabinet structure via one or more hinges
(figures 2B, folding feature, and original claims).

11. A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 1, wherein data processed by said connected devices is synchronized prior to disconnection of said devices (specification, page 9, line 11).

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. A portable computing device including a display having a display surface, said device capable of being mated with a similar device such that the display surfaces of each device functionally form a single display surface (Figures 5A and 5B), said device comprising:

a housing having a top surface enclosing said display (108), a bottom support (200) surface and a plurality of side surfaces (Figure 2A) connecting said top surface and said bottom support surface;

said plurality of said side surfaces comprising one or more fixed surfaces and one or more movable surfaces (Figures 2A, element 100), and

wherein when said movable surfaces are moved, said device is receptive to being physically mated in a substantially coplanar fashion to said similar device so as to form said single display (Figures 3, 4, and 5).

15. A portable computing device including a display having a display surface, said device capable of being mated with a similar device such that the display surfaces of each device functionally form a single display surface, as per claim 14, wherein when said device receives said similar device, the displays of said devices are logically re-mapped to provide said single display for said devices (specification, page 8, line 21 – page 9, line 5).

16. (cancelled)

17. A portable computing device including a display having a display surface, said device capable of being mated with a similar device such that the display surfaces of each device functionally form a single display surface, as per claim 14, wherein said one or more movable surfaces comprises two movable surfaces (**Figures 5A and 5B**).

18. A portable computing device including a display having a display surface, said device capable of being mated with a similar device such that the display surfaces of each device functionally form a single display surface, as per claim 17, wherein said display is substantially rectangular in shape and a first one of said movable surfaces extends along a length of said display while a second one of said two movable surfaces extends along a width of said display (**Figures 5A and 5B**).

19. A portable computing device including a display having a display surface, said device capable of being mated with a similar device such that the display surfaces of each device functionally form a single display surface, as per claim 18, wherein said portable display device is connected to said similar portable display device along said first one of said two movable surfaces providing a portrait orientation display (**Figure 4B**).

20. A portable computing device including a display having a display surface, said device capable of being mated with a similar device such that the display surfaces of each device functionally form a single display surface, as per claim 18, wherein said portable display device is connected to said similar portable display device along said second one of said two movable surfaces providing a landscape orientation display (**Figure 4A**).

21. A portable computing device including a display having a display surface, said device capable of being mated with a similar device such that the display surfaces of each device functionally form a single display surface, as per claim 14, wherein said one or more movable surfaces are removable (**specification, page 7, lines 1-4**).

22. A portable computing device including a display having a display surface, said device capable of being mated with a similar device such that the display surfaces of each device functionally form a single display surface, as per claim 14, wherein said one or more movable surfaces are foldable towards said back support surface (**specification, page 7, lines 1-4**).
23. A portable computing device including a display having a display surface, said device capable of being mated with a similar device such that the display surfaces of each device functionally form a single display surface, as per claim 22, wherein said one or more foldable surfaces are connected to said housing via one or more hinges (**Figure 2B, folding feature and original claims**).
24. A portable computing device including a display having a display surface, said device capable of being mated with a similar device such that the display surfaces of each device functionally form a single display surface, as per claim 14, wherein said device synchronizes data processed by said mated devices prior to disconnection of said devices (**specification, page 9, line 11**).
25. A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, said display device comprising:
- a computer display (**108**) with associated supporting cabinet structure (**Figure 1**) having a display surface;
 - said associated supporting cabinet structure having one or more movable side sections where a corresponding edge of said display is selectively exposed by displacing a movable side section (**Figure 1B**);
 - at least one electrical connector disposed within said movable side section along said edge (**element 202**);
 - at least one physical mating element disposed on said cabinet along said exterior side (**figure 2C, elements 106a and 108**);
 - wherein said electrical connector and mating element are disposed (**Figure 2C**) such that when said device is docked with a second similar portable display device, via a mating

electrical connector and a mating element disposed along a side of said second device having a corresponding exposed display edge, said display edges are substantially contiguous and the display surfaces of said devices are substantially coplanar (**Figures 5A and 5B**).

26. A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 25, wherein the displays of said connected devices are logically re-mapped to provide a single display for said connected devices (**specification, page 8, line 21 – page 9, line 5**).

27. A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 25, wherein said portable computer display device shares processing power when docked with said similar portable computer display device (**specification, page 8, line 21 – page 9, line 5**).

28. A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 25, wherein said display is substantially rectangular in shape said movable side section extends along a longer edge of said display such that when said portable display device is connected to said similar portable display device the displays provide a portrait orientation (**Figure 4B**).

29. A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 25, wherein said display is substantially rectangular in shape and said movable side section extends along a shorter edge of said display such that when said portable display device is connected to said similar portable display device the displays provide a landscape orientation (**Figure 4A**).

30. A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 25, wherein said exposed display edge is exposed by removing said movable side section which extends along said display edge (**Figure 1B**).

31. A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 25, wherein said exposed display edge is exposed by folding said movable side section which extends along said display edge towards a back surface of said supporting cabinet **(Figure 2B)**.
32. A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 31, wherein said folding cabinet section is attached to said support cabinet via one or more hinges **(Figure 2B, folding feature, and original claims)**.
33. A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 25, wherein said portable computer display device synchronizes data processed by said connected devices prior to disconnection of said devices **(specification, page 9, line 11)**.
34. (cancelled)
35. (cancelled)
36. (cancelled)
37. (cancelled)
38. (cancelled)
39. (cancelled)
40. (cancelled)
41. (cancelled)

42. (cancelled)

43. A portable computing device including a display having a display surface (108), said device capable of being mated with a similar device such that the display surfaces of each device form a single display surface (Figure 5A and 5B), said device comprising:

a housing having a back surface and at least first, second, and third exterior edges enclosing said display such that said display surface is exposed for viewing;

said first housing edge extending along a first edge of said display, a first end of said first housing edge adjoining a portion of said second housing edge extending beyond a second edge of said display (Figure 2A and 2B), said first housing edge being foldable towards (Figure 2B, element 100) said back surface to expose said first display edge;

said portion of said second edge extending beyond said second edge of said display having a specified geometric shape (Figure 2B, element 118) when said first housing edge is folded towards said back surface;

said third edge including a reciprocal mating section at an end of said third edge adjoining a second end of said first housing edge opposite said first end, said reciprocal mating section having a geometric shape substantially identical to said specified geometric shape (Figure 2C, element 106a);

wherein when said first edge is folded towards said back surface (Figure 2B), said portable device is capable of being mated with a second similar portable device utilizing said portion of said second edge extending beyond said second edge of said display and said reciprocal mating section such that said first display edge is adjacent an exposed display edge of said second similar portable device (Figures 3, 4, and 5).

Issues:

1. Were the reasons for non-entry of the amendment "After Final" proper?
2. Was a proper rejection made under 35 U.S. C. § 103(a) using existing USPTO guidelines?

Grouping of Claims:

All claims stand or fall together (1, 3, 5-7, 9-15, 17-33, and 43).

Argument:

1. Were the reasons for non-entry of the amendment "After Final" proper?

37 CFR 1.116 (a) cites that "After a final rejection or other final action (1.113), amendments may be made canceling claims or complying with any requirement of form expressly set forth in a previous office action."

In the examiner's rejection of 6/03/03, claims 5-7 and 25 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The examiner pointed out two minor informalities caused by applicant's amendment dated 2/13/03. The examiner correctly noted that claim 5 depended on cancelled claim 4 and that "exterior side" in claim 25 lacked antecedent basis.

Applicant attempted to correct these minor informalities in an amendment dated 8/29/03. The amendment made only two minor changes. Correctly changing the dependency of claim 5 to 1 (as the previous amendment had incorporated the language of claim 4 (edges) into claim 1) and changing the terminology in one instance in claim 25 to read "edges" consistent with language added in amendment dated 2/13/03.

As the examiner had pointed out these minor inconsistencies, there was a reasonable expectation that an amendment in compliance with 37 CFR 1.116 (a) would be both expected (eliminating formal matters) and would place the case in better condition for appeal.

It is respectfully requested that this amendment be considered as timely, placing the claims in better condition for appeal, raising no new subject matter or necessitating a new search, and finally in compliance with 37 CFR 1.116 (a).

2. Was a proper rejection made under 35 U.S. C. § 103(a) using existing USPTO guidelines?

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness under U.S.C. § 103, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. Additionally, the teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure (In re Vaeck, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991)).

Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9-15, and 17-33 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Latocha et al. (U.S. 5,790,371) in view of Ohgami et al. (U.S. 5,574,625).

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

It is believed that applicants' main argument obviates even the minimum basis for a proper rejection under 35 USC § 103. Applicant's representative presented the argument (amendment dated 2/13/2003) that the main reference Latocha fails to disclose or even suggest the claimed removal of a frame (supporting cabinet with exposable movable exterior sides) to expose the display edge for abutment. This is explicitly claimed in all claims (including, e.g. the various claimed configurations of movable and fixed supporting cabinet sides). The primary reference (Latocha) does not provide, suggest, or even have the basic need for this claimed function. Not only does Latocha not suggest this claimed feature, there would have been no motivation to have looked to modify Latocha, as Latocha's invention has no frame to remove. Latocha discloses a plurality of "frameless" display panels being hooked together (figures 1a-3b).

The secondary reference Ohgami et al. was added to show support for covering/uncovering connection ports. Port covers are well known, however, Ohgami et al.,

similar to Latocha, do not disclose or suggest removal of a frame to expose the display edges for abutment. Again, this is explicitly claimed throughout the claims. Ohgami et al. have a frame around the display edges, but it is not removable or moved in any way (as required by present invention claims). While the Ohgami reference does provide for a removable connector door (well known), the connectors and movable door are not configured to enable physical abutment of two similar display devices. The devices need to have a physical connection along the display surface, however, Ohgami is limited to plug-in type connectors (including cards or cords) on the backside of the device (also well known). As shown in Ohgami, the display surface supporting cabinet encapsulates the top surface *11 by a fixed (non-movable frame)*, thus Ohgami could never allow the display edges of two devices to abut. As neither reference discloses or suggests removal of the display frame (exposable movable exterior sides) for abutment of a display to another display, together they cannot provide or suggest the claimed feature. As an aside, Ohgami's port protector only enables insertion of a portable media object and thus does not provide the required ability to mate two display devices even when exposed (uncovered). Thus, Ohgami's port cover does not provide the missing function from the Latocha reference.

The suggestion to modify and combine references for the purposes of a 35 USC 103 rejection must come from the references themselves. Absent this, the required *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established. In the rejection dated 6/23/03, the examiner provides a non-analogous motivation to combine. The motivation is set forth on page 8, section 11, lines 7-9, where the examiner states "Adapting a cover for the mate ports on the device of Latocha for the purpose of protecting the mate ports from physical damage would produce the device as claimed." The motivation argument is flawed in at least three ways. First, adding covers (as the examiner suggests) to the ports of Latocha would make Latocha inoperative (as they require frameless connections). Second, how they would be added, how they would be movably operable, and which specific sections would be removable, or have the ability to be folded are not defined and would require undue experimentation. And third, the claims (e.g. claim 1, lines 4-8) specifically require that the movable exterior sides "protect said one or more exposed display edges", not the "mate ports" as suggested by the examiner.

In addition to the above arguments, Ohgami, either singularly, or in combination do not provide for the claimed feature "folding said one or more movable exterior sides which protect

said one or more exposed *display edges* (emphasis added) towards a back surface of said supporting cabinet". See claims 9, 22, 23, 31, 43. The examiner has explicitly pointed out the protection section of Ohgami is to protect the ports, not the display edges. In addition, Latocha does not suggest protection of display edges.

In addition to the above arguments, Ohgami, either singularly, or in combination do not provide for the claimed feature "wherein said one or more movable surfaces are removable". See claims 21, and 30. This feature is not provided or suggested by Ohgami as their port cover is rotatably attached (not removable).

In addition to the above arguments, Ohgami, either singularly, or in combination do not provide for the claimed feature "two movable surfaces" and further defined specifically by physical elements, "a first one of said movable surfaces extends along a length of said display while a second one of said two movable surfaces extends along a width of said display". See claims 17 and 18 respectively and further noted in claims 19 and 20.

In addition to the above arguments, Ohgami, either singularly, or in combination do not provide for the claimed feature "synchronization before disconnection (claims 11, 24, and 33)." Col. 1, starting with line 60+, of Ohgami (as suggested by the examiner), does not appear to provide this function.

As the combination of Latocha et al. and Ohgami does not provide the claimed elements of the outstanding claims of the present invention and a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established, it is respectfully requested that the rejections be removed and the remaining claims passed to allowance with allowed claim 43.

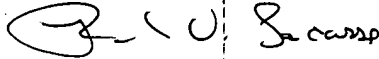
SUMMARY

As has been detailed above, none of the references, provide for the specific claimed details of applicant's presently claimed invention, nor render them obvious. It is believed that this case is in condition for allowance and reconsideration thereof in view of the instant appeal is respectfully requested.

Serial No. 09/788,636
Group Art Unit 2673
Docket No: ARC920000017US1

As this Appeal Brief has been timely filed within the set period of response, no petition for extension of time or associated fee is required. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in the fees provided, to include an extension of time, to Deposit Account No. 09-0441.

Respectfully submitted by
Applicant's Representative,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy W. Lacasse", is written over a horizontal line.

Randy W. Lacasse
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Appendix:

1. A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, said display device comprising:
 - a computer display with associated supporting cabinet structure;
 - said associated supporting cabinet structure having one or more movable exterior sides, where one or more corresponding edges of said display are selectively exposed, said edges exposed by removing or temporarily displacing one or more of said movable exterior sides which protect said one or more exposed display edges, said supporting cabinet additionally comprising one or more structural connectors for structurally mating to said similar device;
 - at least one electrical connector disposed within said associated supporting cabinet structure and proximate to said one or more exterior sides, said at least one electrical connector capable of connecting in a mating relationship with a corresponding electrical connector in said similar portable display device,
 - said one or more exposed display edges substantially abutting in a substantially coplanar configuration to a corresponding exposed display edge of said second similar portable device when said electrical connectors are connected and said computer display logically re-mapped to be part of a single display comprising the displays of both devices .
2. (cancelled)
3. A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 1, wherein said portable computer display device shares processing power when connected to said similar portable computer display device.
4. (cancelled)
5. A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 4, wherein said display is

substantially rectangular in shape and a first one of said two exterior sides extends along a length of said display while a second one of said two exterior edges sides extends along a width of said display.

6. A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 5, wherein said portable display device is connected to said similar portable display device along said first one of said two exterior sides providing a portrait orientation display.

7. A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 5, wherein said portable display device is connected to said similar portable display device along said second one of said two exterior sides providing a landscape orientation display.

8. (cancelled)

9. A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 1, wherein said one or more exposed display edges are exposed said displacement is performed by folding said one or more movable exterior sides which protect said one or more exposed display edges towards a back surface of said supporting cabinet.

10. A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 9, wherein said one or more movable exterior sides are connected to said supporting cabinet structure via one or more hinges.

11. A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 1, wherein data processed by said connected devices is synchronized prior to disconnection of said devices.

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. A portable computing device including a display having a display surface, said device capable of being mated with a similar device such that the display surfaces of each device functionally form a single display surface, said device comprising:

a housing having a top surface enclosing said display, a bottom support surface and a plurality of side surfaces connecting said top surface and said bottom support surface;

said plurality of said side surfaces comprising one or more fixed surfaces and one or more movable surfaces, and

wherein when said movable surfaces are moved, said device is receptive to being physically mated in a substantially coplanar fashion to said similar device so as to form said single display.

15. A portable computing device including a display having a display surface, said device capable of being mated with a similar device such that the display surfaces of each device functionally form a single display surface, as per claim 14, wherein when said device receives said similar device, the displays of said devices are logically re-mapped to provide said single display for said devices.

16. (cancelled)

17. A portable computing device including a display having a display surface, said device capable of being mated with a similar device such that the display surfaces of each device functionally form a single display surface, as per claim 14, wherein said one or more movable surfaces comprises two movable surfaces.

18. A portable computing device including a display having a display surface, said device capable of being mated with a similar device such that the display surfaces of each device functionally form a single display surface, as per claim 17, wherein said display is substantially rectangular in shape and a first one of said movable surfaces extends along a length of said display while a second one of said two movable surfaces extends along a width of said display.

19. A portable computing device including a display having a display surface, said device capable of being mated with a similar device such that the display surfaces of each device functionally form a single display surface, as per claim 18, wherein said portable display device is connected to said similar portable display device along said first one of said two movable surfaces providing a portrait orientation display.

20. A portable computing device including a display having a display surface, said device capable of being mated with a similar device such that the display surfaces of each device functionally form a single display surface, as per claim 18, wherein said portable display device is connected to said similar portable display device along said second one of said two movable surfaces providing a landscape orientation display.

21. A portable computing device including a display having a display surface, said device capable of being mated with a similar device such that the display surfaces of each device functionally form a single display surface, as per claim 14, wherein said one or more movable surfaces are removable.

22. A portable computing device including a display having a display surface, said device capable of being mated with a similar device such that the display surfaces of each device functionally form a single display surface, as per claim 14, wherein said one or more movable surfaces are foldable towards said back support surface.

23. A portable computing device including a display having a display surface, said device

capable of being mated with a similar device such that the display surfaces of each device functionally form a single display surface, as per claim 22, wherein said one or more foldable surfaces are connected to said housing via one or more hinges.

24. A portable computing device including a display having a display surface, said device capable of being mated with a similar device such that the display surfaces of each device functionally form a single display surface, as per claim 14, wherein said device synchronizes data processed by said mated devices prior to disconnection of said devices.

25. A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, said display device comprising:

- a computer display with associated supporting cabinet structure having a display surface;

- said associated supporting cabinet structure having an exterior side one or more movable side sections where a corresponding edge of said display is selectively exposed by displacing a movable side section;

- at least one electrical connector disposed on within said movable side section housing along said edge exterior side;

- at least one physical mating element disposed on said cabinet housing along said exterior side;

- wherein said electrical connector and mating element are disposed such that when said device is docked with a second similar portable display device, via a mating electrical connector and a mating element disposed along a side of said second device having a corresponding exposed display edge, said display edges are substantially contiguous and the display surfaces of said devices are substantially coplanar.

26. A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 25, wherein the displays of said connected devices are logically re-mapped to provide a single display for said connected devices.

27. A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 25, wherein said portable computer display device shares processing power when docked with said similar portable computer display device.

28. A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 25, wherein said display is substantially rectangular in shape said exterior side movable side section extends along a longer edge of said display such that when said portable display device is connected to said similar portable display device the displays provide a portrait orientation.

29. A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 25, wherein said display is substantially rectangular in shape and said exterior side movable side section extends along a shorter edge of said display such that when said portable display device is connected to said similar portable display device the displays provide a landscape orientation.

30. A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 25, wherein said exposed display edge is exposed by removing said movable side section a supporting cabinet section which extends along said display edge.

31. A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 25, wherein said exposed display edge is exposed by folding said movable side section a supporting cabinet section which extends along said display edge towards a back surface of said supporting cabinet.

32. A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking

a housing having a back surface and at least first, second, and third exterior edges enclosing said display such that said display surface is exposed for viewing;

said first housing edge extending along a first edge of said display, a first end of said first housing edge adjoining a portion of said second housing edge extending beyond a second edge of said display, said first housing edge being foldable towards said back surface to expose said first display edge;

said portion of said second edge extending beyond said second edge of said display having a specified geometric shape when said first housing edge is folded towards said back surface;

said third edge including a reciprocal mating section at an end of said third edge adjoining a second end of said first housing edge opposite said first end, said reciprocal mating section having a geometric shape substantially identical to said specified geometric shape;

wherein when said first edge is folded towards said back surface, said portable device is capable of being mated with a second similar portable device utilizing said portion of said second edge extending beyond said second edge of said display and said reciprocal mating section such that said first display edge is adjacent an exposed display edge of said second similar portable device.